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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, on behalf of His Excellency Chief Tom Ikimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Four on Sierra Leone, the text of the Declaration of the ECOWAS Committee of Four on Sierra Leone, following the second round of talks between members of the Committee and representatives of Major J. P. Koroma of the Republic of Sierra Leone at Abidjan on 29 and 30 July 1997.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Isaac E. AYEWAH
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration of the Economic Community of West African States Committee of Four on Sierra Leone issued at Abidjan on 30 July 1997

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ministerial Committee of Four on Sierra Leone, comprising the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and the representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and ECOWAS secretariats, held a second meeting with representatives of Major J. P. Koroma of the Republic of Sierra Leone at Abidjan on 29 and 30 July 1997.

2. The Committee reaffirmed the mandate given by the ECOWAS Ministers for Foreign Affairs and endorsed by the Chairman of ECOWAS, OAU and the United Nations Security Council, namely:

(a) The early reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Tejan Kabbah;

(b) The return of peace and security;

(c) The resolution of the issue of refugees and displaced persons.

3. Following the decisions reached between the Committee and the Sierra Leone delegation at their first meeting on 17 and 18 July 1997, which endorsed the Committee's mandate, the Ministers requested the delegation to present its proposals on the detailed modalities for the restoration of constitutional order to their country, including the early reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Tejan Kabbah. In presenting their proposals, the delegation reneged on the agreements reached during the first meeting, particularly on the question of the reinstatement of the legitimate Government.

4. The Committee found the new position of the Sierra Leone delegation on the issue of the reinstatement of President Kabbah totally unacceptable. It expressed disappointment at the sudden change of position by the Sierra Leone delegation and therefore decided that it would serve no useful purpose to hold further discussions with the delegation.

5. The Committee expressed dismay at the announcement by the illegal regime in Freetown, while the meeting was still in session, of its decision to suspend the Constitution of Sierra Leone and to remain in office illegally until the year 2001.

6. In view of the urgency of these circumstances, the Committee decided to report to the Chairman of ECOWAS on Thursday, 31 July 1997. The recommendations to the Chairman will emphasize, inter alia, the need to strengthen the sanctions and embargo regimes that are part of the measures aimed at ensuring the early and full implementation of their mandate.

7. The Committee expressed profound appreciation to His Excellency President Henri Konan Bedie and to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for the excellent facilities provided and the hospitality extended to the delegations.